



## OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

October 5, 2007

### NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY CALL FOR OVERRIDE OF PRESIDENT'S VETO OF BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

#### **New York Times, "Misleading Spin on Children's Health"**

"Trying to justify his ideologically driven veto of a bill to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, President Bush and his staff have fired a barrage of misinformation about this valuable program. Before the House votes on whether to override the veto, all members — especially those from Mr. Bush's party who say they are concerned about millions of uninsured children — must look behind the rhetoric...Mr. Bush's primary rationales for his veto tend to disintegrate when examined closely...Like many other things that Mr. Bush has gotten disastrously wrong, he'd already made up his mind and had no interest in listening to others' arguments. Now it is up to Congress to show Mr. Bush that such blind partisanship will not be rewarded. For the sake of America's children, lawmakers must override the veto." [10/5/07]

#### **San Antonio Express-News, "In America, it's a sad day for children's health care"**

"Despite repeated calls from both parties, President Bush on Wednesday chose to use the fourth veto of his presidency to spike a proposed expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. It's a bad decision that leaves millions of kids without insurance and promotes a penny-wise and pound-foolish fiscal approach....This is no left-of-center proposal. Significant numbers of Republicans backed the bill, and a broad range of organizations support it — the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, America's Health Insurance Plans and the Healthcare Leadership, which represents insured hospitals, pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies...This veto is bad public policy. The Democrats and Republicans who supported an expansion of the program should keep working on this one." [10/5/07]

#### **Denver Post, "Reverse Bush's veto on SCHIP"**

"The U.S. House of Representatives should vote to override President Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, when it takes up the issue Oct. 18. We urge all members of Colorado's congressional delegation, which has so far divided along party lines on SCHIP, to vote to override this misguided veto. A bill ensuring that poor American children have access to basic health care is not a proper venue for political games." [10/5/07]

#### **Seattle Times, "This president's veto deserves an override"**

"The bipartisan spirit that created the children's health insurance program a decade ago ought to be

rekindled to override a presidential veto of an expansion...The States Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is universally supported for providing health coverage for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private health insurance....Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle get this. Why Bush doesn't is a question raised by prominent Republicans such as Sens. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Charles Grassley of Iowa and Pat Roberts of Kansas...An override vote is set for Oct. 18. Between now and then, Republican holdouts ought to ask themselves if they really want to follow Bush off the cliff on this one." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Kansas City Star, "Foes of health-care bill let down the children"**

"U.S. Rep. Sam Graves has turned to red herrings and scare tactics to justify his callousness toward ill children whose families cannot afford to take them to a doctor. The Missouri 6th District Republican voted against most public opinion and the majority of Congress when he voted to deny medical coverage to low-income children through the State Children's Health Insurance Program...Cheers for lawmakers who voted to override in the face of unreasonable opposition from the president and some in his party." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Salt Lake Tribune, "Switching sides: Cannon, Bishop should change votes on CHIP"**

"It's a rare moment when the individual votes of Utah's congressional representatives can make a difference for people who are in need. The upcoming vote to override President Bush's veto of a bipartisan bill to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program is one of those rare opportunities. So far, the majority of our congressional delegation has been on the wrong side, the president's side, of this issue. Now they have a chance to redeem themselves, to stand up and tell The Decider he decided wrong, and they should grab it. Their first responsibility is to Utah's children, not to a lame-duck president who rarely gets things right." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Des Moines Register, "Override veto: Expand kids' health insurance"**

"Bush simply didn't want to compromise on this issue. And he doesn't have to. At this point in his presidency, he has little to lose. His approval ratings are low, and he's not running for re-election. How many members of Congress will face the voters again. Any members who don't vote to override the veto should be held accountable by voters in the next election...The vast majority of Americans support providing health care to this country's children. Congress should reflect that sentiment. Those who fail to represent the interests of the people have no place in Washington - and no business using the taxpayer-funded perks that members of Congress enjoy." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Minneapolis Star-Tribune, "A bad veto on children's insurance"**

"Children's advocates staged a vigil at the office of Rep. Michele Bachmann Wednesday night, urging her to defy President Bush in the big showdown that developed this week over children's health insurance. We don't always applaud political theater, but in this case the advocates are right. The number of uninsured children in the United States is a national disgrace, and the bill that Congress produced last week was a sensible, cost-effective answer. Bachmann and Rep. John Kline, the only no votes in the Minnesota delegation, should switch sides and support a veto override... The larger puzzle in this debate is why even other advanced nations can give their children health insurance while spending far less than Americans do. SCHIP has been a practical, effective step toward solving that puzzle, and it deserves better than a presidential veto." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Boston Globe, “Let’s cover the children”**

“No one can accuse Utah Senator Orrin Hatch of being an exponent of big government, but he realizes the children's health insurance program he co-sponsored in 1997 needs to be expanded. Because of Republicans like him, the bill that would cover an additional 3.8 million youngsters has enough support to get the Senate to override President Bush's indefensible veto. With a push by the bill's coalition of backers will also get the 15 to 20 votes needed to override the veto in the House...If the House fails to override the veto, Speaker Nancy Pelosi plans to send the bill through again. But the first override vote isn't until Oct. 18, plenty of time for the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, the association of America's Health Insurance Plans, and all the other groups supporting S-Chip to persuade 15 to 20 representatives to join the 265 who have already voted for the bill. As Hatch said this week, it's ‘the morally right thing to do.’” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Olympian (Washington State), “Abandon Bush on SCHIP veto”**

“Congress should move swiftly to override President Bush's veto of a bill to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)...SCHIP has been a success. It provides medical coverage for more than 6.6 million youngsters, helping to reduce by one-third the number of low-income children lacking health coverage...The bill approved in the House and Senate would have covered another 3.8 million children by 2012 by boosting SCHIP funding \$35 billion over the next five years...But Bush said "no." He offered instead to boost funding by \$5 billion over five years, an increase that the Congressional Budget Office said is only 36 percent of what's needed to maintain current program levels. What Republican Congressman in his or her right mind would want to see Bush prevail on this issue?” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Bradenton Herald (Fla.), “Bush errs with veto”**

“It's unfortunate that Bush played politics with children's health, primarily children from low-income families that can ill-afford coverage...The political fallout of the veto will be heavy.” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Roanoke Times, “A veto to overturn”**

“President Bush this week wielded his veto power for only the fourth time in his presidency -- to deny health care coverage to almost 4 million uninsured children. Now he wants to talk compromise with the bill's backers. There should be no compromise. The expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program is good legislation that passed both houses of Congress with strong bipartisan support.” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Savannah Morning News (Ga.), “Torpedoed SCHIP”**

“Adequate medical insurance for the nation's children is an investment in a healthy populace that will yield dividends in improved educational outcomes and greater productivity in the long-term. Too bad that President Bush doesn't understand. His veto Wednesday of a bipartisan bill that would have improved lives of an estimated 10 million children and their families was a bad decision. Pray that Congress overrides it.” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

### **Ashville Citizen-Times (NC), “President’s rhetoric doesn’t justify veto on bill”**

“The reasons President Bush gave for vetoing a bill that would expand a popular health insurance program for low-income children exaggerated the program’s reach and were disingenuous at best, given the administration’s own poor record regarding fiscal responsibility...When considering the facts, as opposed to the rhetoric, the veto is indefensible.” [\[10/5/07\]](#)

to the president's misleading rhetoric, it's hard to justify not backing a bill that helps low-income children grow into healthy adults." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

**Patriot News (Penn.), "Override the veto: SCHIP program isn't perfect, but it does work."**  
"One thing you can say about SCHIP is that it works. It isn't perfect, but the good it does far outweighs the negatives. We urge Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to speak with one voice and help override the president's veto." [\[10/5/07\]](#)

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